

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner (1) withdrew the finality of the previous Office Action; and (2) rejected claims 521-528, 531-537, 539-545, 547-565, 567-577, and 580-615 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0056433, inventors Ring et al. Applicants respond as follows.

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 521-528, 531-537, 539-545, 547-565, 567-577, and 580-615 are pending.

Claims 531-537, 539-545, 547-565, 567-577, 591-593, 595, 597-603, 605-611, and 613-614 are hereby canceled.

II. Claims Rejected as Anticipated by Ring

The Examiner rejects all pending claims as anticipated by Ring. Claims 531-537, 539-545, 547-565, 567-577, 591-593, 595, 597-603, 605-611, 613, and 615 are hereby canceled.

Claims 521-528, 580-590, 594, 596, 604, 612, and 614 remain pending are distinguishable from Ring for at least the following reasons.

Claims 521, 581, and 614 each recite a plurality of cutting elements. In contrast, Ring does not disclose cutting elements.

Claim 525 recites gripping elements moveable from a first position, wherein they do not engage the tubular member, to a second position, wherein they do engage the tubular member. Ring does not disclose this limitation.

Claim 580 recites cutting off an end of the expandable tubular member, while claim 594 recites a cutting device for cutting the tubular member. Ring does not disclose cutting a tubular member.

Claim 596 recites a drag block and a tubular stinger, neither of which are disclosed by Ring.

Claims 604 and 612 recite applying internal pressure simultaneously to the inside surface of the tubular member at a plurality of discrete locations and a means therefore, respectively. Ring does not disclose either limitation.

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For at least the above reasons, claims 521, 525, 580, 581, 594, 596, 604, 612, and 614 are not anticipated by Ring. Therefore, claims 522-524, claims 526-528, and claims 582-590, which depend from claims 521, 525, and 581, respectively, are also not anticipated for at least the same reasons.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration, withdrawal of the claim rejections, and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. It is believed that each ground of rejection raised in the Office Action dated February 2, 2008 has been fully addressed. It is believed that no extensions of time or fees are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account Number 03-2769 (2725-27006).

Respectfully submitted,

/David A. Rose/
David A. Rose
Reg. No. 26,223
CONLEY ROSE, P.C.
P. O. Box 3267
Houston, TX 77253-3267
(713) 238-8000 (Phone)
(713) 238-8008 (Fax)
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANTS